city at Chao-chdeh.

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/121/In the first years of the Ch'ing dynasty, the frontier areas were awed into submission by the strong military power of the government. But the ignorant I of Liang-shan continued to cause sporadic troubles although they did not dare revolt on a large scale. The authority of Chinese officials could still reach Liang-shan at that time. In the middle of the dynasty, however, the situation grew worse and the I became more insubordinate. The copper mines in Wu-po, for example, had to stop operation in Tao-kuang's reign. During the most flourishing period there were 14 copper and iron mines in Lei-po hsien. In all of them mining operations, which began in Chia-ching's reign, came to a halt in Tao-kuang's reign when I troubles were becoming quite uncontrollable. From the time of Hsien-feng's reign, the Lolo became even more seditious. The bulk of Lei-po hsien, for example, fell into their hands. But court authority was not yet entirely destroyed, and the I were still somewhat fearful of the government and had to yield whenever the officials adopted a very positive attitude. Important points of communication and the guarded areas were still in the hands of the Chinese. Chao Erh-sun's attack on Liang-shan during Hsien-ding's reign therefore had a speedy success.

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The situation was quickly reversed after the Revolution of 1911. Formerly military expenses of the hsien were appropriated from provincial funds, but soon after the establishment of the Republic, these provinces came under the control of various warlords, and the funds were no longer available. Without them the armies stationed there for defense had to be transferred elsewhere. Guard-camps were dispersed and defense was maintained by men drafted from local districts. These men had neither battle experience nor appropriate training and could not match the soldiers formerly stationed there. Moreover, the 2,000 militia in the three hsien of Lei, Ma, Ô, constituted only about one fifth of the total number of soldiers stationed there during the Ch'ing period, and their strength was also proportionately reduced. In the meantime military pay and rations were not appropriated in the first years of the Republic, and the expenses required for the pacification of the I had to be provided for by each hsien itself. Economic difficulties prevented prompt payment of salaries to the previously appointed native headmen; this also prompted the I to rebel. In addition to plunder and revolt, gradual encroachment upon neighboring territories was also a common occurrence. Even then, in spite of the large-scale withdrawal of troops, the "paper tiger" of the former Ch'ing period was